

South African Commercial sunflower quality for the 2017/2018 Season



Acknowledgements

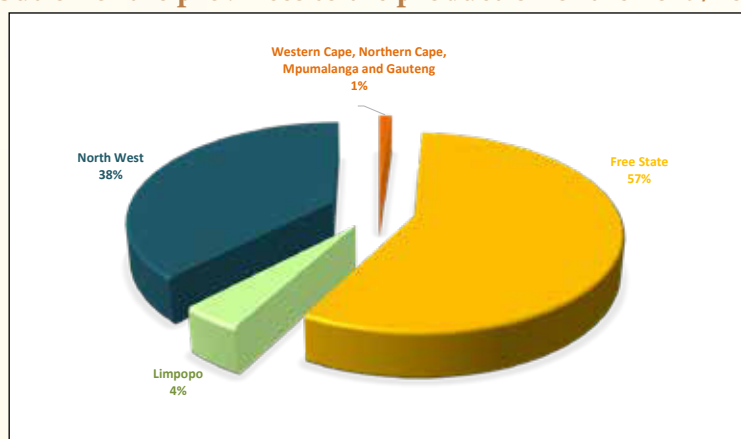
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Introduction

The final commercial sunflower crop figure of the 2017/2018 season as overseen by the National Crop Estimates Liaison Committee (CELC) is 862 000 tons, an increase of 3 395 tons or 0.40% compared to the final crop estimate figure. The crop decreased by 1.4% (12 000 tons) year on year. The major sunflower-producing provinces, namely the Free State and North West, contributed 95% of the total crop.

Graph 1: Contribution of the provinces to the production of the 2017/2018 sunflower crop



Figures provided by the CEC.

During the harvesting season, a representative sample of each delivery of sunflower seed at the various grain intake points, was taken according to the prescribed grading regulations. The sampling procedure for the samples used in this survey is described on page 27. One hundred and seventy six (176) composite sunflower samples, representing the different production regions, were analysed for quality. The samples were graded, milled and analysed for moisture, crude protein, crude fat, crude fibre and ash content.

This is the sixth annual sunflower crop quality survey performed by The Southern African Grain Laboratory NPC (SAGL). SAGL was established in 1997 on request of the Grain Industry. SAGL is an ISO 17025 accredited testing laboratory and participates in a number of proficiency testing schemes, both nationally and internationally, as part of our ongoing quality assurance procedures to demonstrate technical competency and international comparability.

The goal of this crop quality survey is the compilation of a detailed database, accumulating quality data collected over several seasons on the national commercial sunflower crop, which is essential in assisting with decision making processes. The data reveal general tendencies and highlight quality differences in the commercial sunflower produced in different local production regions.

The results of this survey are available on the SAGL website (www.sagl.co.za). The hard copy reports are distributed to all the Directly Affected Groups and interested parties. The report is also available for download in a PDF format from the website.